Development of coastal circuit

458. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for approval of the Central Government for integrated development of coastal circuit in Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Dakshin Kannada Districts;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the likely date by when the proposal would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Aproposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka for inclusion of projects for development of certain minor ports in the State in the National Maritime Development Programme as Centrally sponsored schemes. Another proposal from the Government of Karnataka was also received for inclusion of projects for development of certain minor ports in the 'Sagar Mala' Programme.

(c) The responsibility for development of minor ports vests with the State Government and there is no on-going scheme under which Central financial assistance could be rendered for these projects. In the light of the exercise undertaken by the Government to formulate a Policy for the Maritime Sector (Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport), it has been decided not to pursue the 'Sagar Mala' Programme and Government of Karnataka has been informed accordingly.

Third phase of NHDP

459. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had drawn up plans for the launch of the third phase of the National Highways Development Programmes (NHDP-III) envisaging a total investment of Rs. 50,000 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the third phase has been slated f completion by March, 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has approved upgradation of 4,000 km. of National Highways under NHDP Phase IIIA at a cost of Rs. 22,000 crores on **BOT** (Toll) basis. Approval has also been given for initiating advance action in the form of preparation of Detailed Project Reports for another 6,000 km of NHs under NHDP Phase IIIB. NHDP Phase IIIA is scheduled for completion by December, 2009.

Transhipment terminal at Vizhinjam

460. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the proposed international container transhipment terminal at Vizhinjam in Kerala; and

(b) the time by which the project is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The responsibility for the development of ports other then major ports lies with the State Government concerned which also have administrative control over such ports under the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908. The responsibility for the development of Vizhinjam port, which is not a major port, lies with the Government of Kerala. However, according to the information furnished by the Government of Kerala, after conclusion of the ongoing bidding process for development of the terminal, the Concession Agreement is expected to be executed by December 2005. The construction work is expected to commence after the technical and financial closure of the project which may require about an year's time. The construction period for the first of the three phases of the project is three years. Subject to things proceeding as planned, the project is expected to be on stream by 2009. In the meantime, the Government of Kerala has established a Special Purpose Company (SPC) with a view to providing external support infrastructure, namely, rail/road connectivity and power/water supply to the project.